

Message Text

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40

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03

OMB-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 SCCT-02 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /103 W

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R 041049Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2071

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1995

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, JO

SUBJECT: ISRAEL'S PALESTINIAN DILEMMA

REF: JERUSALEM A-21 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF TEL AVIV AIRGRAM, POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES APRIL 6.

2. STATEMENTS BY KING HUSSEIN AND PRIMIN ZAID RIFAI DURING THEIR RECENT VISIT TO THE US IN WHICH THEY OUTLINED JORDAN'S NEGOTATING POSITION ON JERUSALEM, WEST BANK AND PALESTINIAN ISSUE BARELY CAUSED A RIPPLE WITHIN ISRAEL. ALTHOUGH STATEMENTS WERE REPORTED BY ISRAELI MEDIA, NO PROMINENT ISRAELI POLITICAL FIGURE REACTED TO THEM. IN PART, OUTBREAKS OF ARTILLERY SHELLING IN NORTH AND CURRENT PREOCCUPATION WITH EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT ISRAELI-SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT OVER-
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SHADOWED HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON, BUT LACK OF ANY

REACTION IS ALSO SYMPTOMATIC OF RELUCTANCE ON PART OF ISRAEL TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THORNY ISSUES OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH JORDAN, ROLE OF PALESTINIANS IN NEGOTIATIONS AND EVENTUAL DISPOSITION OF WEST BANK. INDEED, AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN LITTLE RETHINKING SINCE THE WAR OF ISRAELI POSITIONS ON THESE ISSUES.

3. ISRAELIS ARE FINALLY WILLING TO ADMIT THERE IS A PALESTINIAN PROBLEM BUT THEY FEEL NO URGENCY IN FINDING SOLUTION TO IT. THEY REMAIN ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO NEGOTIATING WITH PALESTINIANS AS WELL AS TO CREATION OF SEPARATE PALESTINIAN ENTITY. HUSSEIN'S POSSIBLE RENUNCIATION OF HIS CLAIM TO WEST BANK IN FAVOR OF PLO IS VIEWED BY KNOWLEDGEABLE ISRAELIS AS TACTIC ON HIS PART TO AVOID TAKING LEAD IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL SINCE HE KNOWS THAT HE CANNOT OBTAIN AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL ON TERMS SATISFACTORY TO PLO AND RADICAL ARABS. ISRAELIS BELIEVE THAT, BY THROWING ISSUE IN PLO'S LAP, HUSSEIN WOULD BE

ASSURED THAT PALESTINIANS WOULD BE UNABLE TO ARRIVE AT SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL AND WOULD, IN END, BE FORCED TO COME TO HIM. ISRAEL, THEREFORE, DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT IT IS FACED WITH CHOICE BETWEEN "HUSSEIN NOW OR ARAFAT LATER," AND, ONCE HAVING RECOGNIZED EXISTENCE OF PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, BELIEVES IT HAS NOTHING TO LOSE-- IN FACT, MAY HAVE MUCH TO GAIN-- BY PUTTING SEARCH FOR SOLUTION TO PROBLEM ON BACK-BURNER FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. THE PROSPECT FOR FUTURE, THEREFORE, IS A CONTINUED RELUCTANCE TO ADDRESS ISSUE-- UNLESS FORCED TO DO SO BY OUTSIDE FACTORS.
KEATING

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